

# Programmatic Permit Guidance

## Bridge Paint-Prep Washing and Blasting General HPA GH-D9448-01, Appendix C General NPDES WA-0039039, Section S1.C

This guidance will help you interpret and understand the roles and responsibilities for complying with programmatic permits and exemptions for **bridge paint-prep washing and blasting**. You must read the permits prior to conducting work. Only familiarity with the permits will ensure your activities maintain compliance. The permits and referenced documents are available for download at WSDOT's programmatic permit website <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/Programmatics/default.htm>.

### Programmatic permits and exemptions

- General Hydraulic Project Approval GH-D9448-01, Appendix C
- General NPDES WA-0039039, Section S1.C

### Work covered:

The GHPA and NPDES permits allow bridge painting, paint-prep cleaning and washing, and abrasive blasting. Debris and paint collection and wash-water filtration structures are required. Subject to restrictions described below, filtered wash-water may enter state waters or be discharged via ground infiltration.

### Work not covered:

The permits do not allow work below the Ordinary High Water Line (OHWL) (except for a temporary floating platform) or work that affects the bed of state waters. Discharges are not allowed to 303(d) listed rivers, lakes, or wetlands if listed for copper, zinc, or lead. An interactive map of 303(d) waterbodies is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/2002/2002-index.html>

### When and how often work is allowed:

There are no freshwater timing restrictions; however, some restrictions (below) may limit work to seasons when streams experience high flows. If the bridge is located less than 50 feet above saltwater and the containment or filter structure will shade aquatic plants for longer than 72 hours, then the shading part of the work shall occur between October 1 and April 30.

### Work restrictions:

Appendix C and S1.C specify restrictions and required practices that minimize the disturbance of vegetation and prevent pollutants from entering the water. **Notable restrictions** include the following:

- Wash-water cannot be discharged to water bodies listed as impaired for copper, zinc, or lead by Ecology.
- Wash-water cannot be discharged to streams with flows less than 55cfs in Eastern Washington (EW) and 89cfs in Western Washington (WW).
- Wash-water discharges are allowed to streams with flows over 4261cfs (EW) and 7931 (WW) if filtered through a #100 sieve tarp.
- Wash-water discharges are allowed to the ground or to streams of with flows in between those listed above—if filtered through a #100 sieve tarp **and** the project participates in discharge monitoring studies being conducted by ESO.

## Permit questions?

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WSDOT, Environmental Services Office

(360) 705-7487

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## Reporting requirements:

Complete and accurate reporting of all work covered by this permit is a legal requirement.

### Report Planned Projects to Headquarters—

On or before January 10, Regional maintenance offices shall submit a list of all bridges expected to be pressure washed and painted during the year to the Environmental Services Office (ESO). Include the stream flows expected during bridge washing, planned mitigation measures and, if proposed, the location and description of soils suitable for infiltration. The list must also describe anticipated mitigation (following section C3 of the NPDES permit). ESO will submit a statewide list of planned bridge painting projects to Ecology by January 31 of each year.

### Pre-project notification to WDFW & Ecology—

Three Days or more before starting work—notify the WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager (RHMP) and Ecology's Regional water quality staff by letter or fax. The RHMP contact list is available at the programmatic permit website (click on the *documents referenced in permits* quick link). Ecology contacts are listed below. Information that must be included in the notifications is found in appendix C and section S3.A of the permits.

### Reporting a project—

Maintenance crews fill out the ESA compliance forms on the PDA or the computer. Contact your Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinator (see list next page) for assistance. When reporting, maintenance staff can recommend improvements to BMPs and mitigation: This is the best way to rid our toolbox of BMPs that do not work and add BMPs that work better.

Non-maintenance projects covered by this permit must submit a Programmatic Permit Reporting Form to ESO (form and directions available at the programmatic permit website).

### WSDOT's End of Year Report—

Appendix C and S3.B specify information ESO must submit to the WDFW and Ecology in the annual report. ESO and Maintenance Environmental will coordinate to submit annual project reports by January 31. In order to meet this deadline, project reports must be completed by January 10. An annual report will be submitted even if no work was done. ESO will convert the SR & MP to lat/long for the annual report.

## Emergency reporting

Distressed or dead fish and water quality problems must be reported to the RMEC and regional WDFW and Ecology offices below.

### Ecology Regional Contact Information:

<b>Southwest Region</b> P.O. Box 47775 Olympia, WA 98504-7775 Fax # 360-407-6305  Deborah Cornett - supervisor for water quality inspectors/construction <a href="mailto:dcorn461@ecy.wa.gov">dcorn461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 360-407-7269  Margaret Hill - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:mhill461@ecy.wa.gov">mhill461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 360-407-0246  Janet Boyd - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:jboy461@ecy.wa.gov">jboy461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 360-407-0245  Betsy Dickes - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:bedi461@ecy.wa.gov">bedi461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 360-407-6283  Rusty Post - water quality inspector (Vancouver field office) <a href="mailto:rpos461@ecy.wa.gov">rpos461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 360-690-4787	<b>Northwest Region</b> 3190 160th Ave SE Bellevue, WA 9808-5452 Fax # 425-649-7098  Don Seeberger - Unit Supervisor for the Water Quality Inspectors/Construction <a href="mailto:dsee461@ecy.wa.gov">dsee461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 425-649-4424  John Drabek - supervisor for the water quality inspectors/industrial unit  Note - John's group works pretty closely with Don's group - some overlap so John is listed more of a backup but should be included in all e-mail notifications. <a href="mailto:jdra461@ecy.wa.gov">jdra461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 425-649-7293
<b>Central Region</b> 15 West Yakima Ave Suite 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3452 Fax # 509-575-2809  Jeff Lewis - supervisor for water quality inspectors <a href="mailto:jlew461@ecy.wa.gov">jlew461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 509-454-7207  Ray Latham - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:rlat461@ecy.wa.gov">rlat461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 509-575-2807  Terry Whittmeier <a href="mailto:twit461@ecy.wa.gov">twit461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 509-574-3991	<b>Eastern Region</b> N 4601 Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 Fax # 509-329-3570  Lenox Bramble (called Len) - supervisor for water quality permit writers <a href="mailto:lbra461@ecy.wa.gov">lbra461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 509-329-3504  Mike Hepp - water quality inspector <a href="mailto:mhep461@ecy.wa.gov">mhep461@ecy.wa.gov</a> 509-329-3536

### Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact Information:

Region 1 – Spokane: 509-456-4082	Region 4 – Mill Creek: 425-775-1311
Region 2 - Ephrata: 509-754-4624	Region 5 – Vancouver: 360-906-6700
Region 3 – Yakima: 509-575-2740	Region 6 – Montesano: 360-249-4628

### WSDOT, Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinators:

NCR—Joe Williams: 509-667-3054	SCR—Mark Reynolds 509-577-1755
SWR—Candace Jochim: 360-905-2173	ER —Erv Koller: 509-324-6133
NWR—Mark Cornwall: 206-440-4523	OR —Ken Schlatter: 360-570-6707

